

09/744437

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of  
KINDLER et al.

BOX PCT

International Application  
PCT/EP 99/05933

Filed: August 13, 1999

For: PREPARATION OF ALKYNEDIOLS

#3/a  
4/6/01  
JisaPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTHonorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. In a process for preparing alkynediols by reacting ketones with acetylenic hydrocarbons selected from the group consisting of acetylene and alkynemonool in an organic solvent in the presence of a base comprising potassium alkoxides of primary and/or secondary alcohols to form adducts of alkynemonools and/or alkynediols and said base which precipitate from the reaction mixture, the improvement which comprises, using as acetylenic hydrocarbon acetylene in the ratio of ketone to acetylene from [1,9 to 2,1:1] 1.9 to 2.1:1 and the ratio of potassium alkoxide to ketone is within the range from [0,9 to 2,1:1] 0.9 to 2.1:1 and using as acetylenic hydrocarbon alkynemonool in the ratio of alkynemonool to ketone from [1: 0,8 to 1,2] 1:0.8 to 1.2 and the ratio of potassium alkoxide to ketone is within the range from [1,5 to 2,2:1] 1.5 to 2.2:1, so as to produce [gellike] gel like adducts having a spherical surface, whereby the reaction mixture remains stirrable during the entire reaction.

2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein, using as acetylenic hydrocarbon acetylene, it is used in a stoichiometric amount with regard to the ketone and ratio of potassium alkoxide to ketone is within the range from 1:1 to [1,5:1] 1.5:1.

4. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein, using as acetylenic hydrocarbon alkynemonool the ratio of alkynemonool to ketone is within the range from 1:1 and the ratio of potassium alkoxide to ketone is within the range from [1,9:1 to 2,1:1] 1.9:1 to 2.1:1.

5. A process as claimed in claim 1 [any of claims 1 to 4], wherein ketones selected

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